involved in some kind of muddle in which adulteration, short'measuring and supply of low quality lubricants are included;

(b) if so, the action Government have taken against such petrol pump dealers; and

(c) the details of efforts Government have made to prevent such kind of muddles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. the Anti Adulteration Cell (in the retail outlets inspected by it) had detected approximately 20% cases of sample failure and another 60% cases of some malpractices and possible adulteration during the period from July 2001 to July 2002.

(b) In all cases where adulteration/malpractices were detected, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) concerned were asked to take action under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement.

(c) Besides the setting up of Anti Adulteration Cell, steps such as blue dyeing of Kerosene meant for Public Distribution System (PDS), regular/surprise inspection of the retail outlets, introduction of tamper proof locking system for tankeNrucks, special vigilance drives, etc., are taken by the OMCs. Action is taken by the OMCs against erring dealers under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement.The State Governments also initiate action against any dealer indulging in adulteration of petroleum products and violation of any Control Order issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Enquiry on functioning of petrol pumps

†2057. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the functioning of petrol pumps as per the news-item which appeared in the Dainik Jagran, dated the 24th of August, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of petrol pumps found guilty of less measurement and adulteration in petrol; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Anti Adulteration Cell of the Ministry conducted inspections based on specific information and complaints received by them.

(b) Anti Adulteration Cell (in the retail outlets inspected by it) had detected approximately 20% cases of sample failure and another 60% cases of some malpractices and possible adulteration during the period from July 2001 to July 2002.

(c) In all cases where adulteration/malpractices were detected, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) concerned were asked to take action under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement.

Research on bio-diesel

2058. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether research on bio-diesel as an efficient, clean and natural energy alternative fuel to petroleum has been successful;

(b) if so, whether this diesel will be cheaper;

(c) if so, what will be its price;

(d) whether Government propose to put it to use on a large scale; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bio-diesel will not be cheaper at the initial stage. However, once bio-diesel is available on a commercial scale, it will compete with the rates of diesel.

(d) and (e) A decision in this regard is yet to be taken by the Government.